

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 231330Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5005

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1576

EXDIS

FOR P - DJEREJIAN ACTION TODAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (UNDERSEC SISCO - CNO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY)

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOR UNDERSEC SISCO - CNO HOLLOWAY
VISIT

REF: REYKJAVIK 1570 PARA 4

1. THE FOLLOWING DRAFT OF PRESS RELEASE IS FONMIN'S COUNTER-
SUGGESTION.

BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
JOSEPH J. SISCO WILL BE VISITING ICELAND DURING THE PERIOD
DECEMBER 8-11, 1974. SUCH A VISIT WAS ARRANGED AT THE TIME THE
FOREIGN MINISTER OF ICELAND MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO IN
WASHINGTON LAST SEPTEMBER IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

UNDER SECRETARY SISCO WILL MEET WITH ICELANDIC POLITICAL LEADERS
AND WILL DISCUSS VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL SUBJECTS. ACCOMPANYING
THE UNDER SECRETARY WILL BE ADMIRAL JAMES L. HOLLOWAY III WHO HAS
RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED UNITED STATES CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.
THE ADMIRAL WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS. END QUOTE.

2. THE MFA SEESAWS BETWEEN "DEC 8-11" AND "DEC 9-11" AS THE
PERIOD OF THE VISIT. FRANKLY, I DO NOT THINK IT MATTERS WHICH
ONE WE ULTIMATELY END UP WITH SINCE GROUP DEPARTS WASHINGTON
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DEC 8 AND WILL ARRIVE REYKJAVIK ABOUT 11:30 P.M.- MIDNIGHT

LOCAL TIME THAT DATE. THE OFFICIAL EVENTS COMMENCE DEC 9. DOES WASHINGTON HAVE ANY STRONG FEELINGS ON THIS POINT?

3. OMISSION OF REFERENCE TO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY IN FIRST SENTENCE BECAUSE FONMIN PREFERS TO HIGHLIGHT THE VISIT AS ESSENTIALLY DIPLOMATIC/POLITICAL.

4. THE NEW SECOND SENTENCE WHICH STARTS "SUCH A VISIT," ETC., REPLACES THE PHRASE "AT THE INVITATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER." BOTH CONNOTE ESSENTIALLY SAME IDEA.

5. SUBSTITUTE OF WORD "VARIOUS" FOR THE WORDS "A WIDE RANGE OF" INTERNATIONAL SUBJECTS. THE ICELANDIC WORD FOR "A WIDE RANGE OF" ALSO EQUALLY TRANSLATES INTO THE WORD "VARIOUS." THIS RECOMMENDED CHANGE IS NOT FOR SUBSTANTIVE REASONS BUT ONLY REFLECTS THE LIMITED ICELANDIC VOCABULARY. ICELANDERS DO NOT USE THE TERM "A WIDE RANGE OF." THEY WOULD BE MORE APT TO TRANSLATE IT AS "VARIOUS," MEANING THE SAME THING.

6. ADDITION OF WORDS END OF FIRST PARA "BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UNITED STATES" IS OF NO SUBSTANTIVE SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS ADDED MERELY TO REFLECT ACCURACY.

7. THE CHANGE IN FIRST SENTENCE SECOND PARA FROM "MEET WITH ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT LEADERS" TO "MEET WITH ICELANDIC POLITICAL LEADERS" IS BETTER AND MORE ACCURATE SINCE GROUP WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERS OF FOUR OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, AND NOT JUST THE GOVT COALITION PARTIES. IN ICELANDIC POLITICAL TERMINOLOGY "GOVT LEADERS" IS MORE RESTRICTIVE AND MEANS ONLY THE GOVERNING PARTIES.

8. CHANGE SUGGESTED NEXT TO LAST SENTENCE OF SECOND PARA REGARDING THE CNO ONLY REFLECTS HOW AN ICELANDER WOULD GENERALLY BE APT TO TRANSLATE THE ICELANDIC INTO ENGLISH WHICH WOULD MEAN THE SAME AS OUR ORIGINAL VERSION WHERE WE SAY "IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS."

9. ACTION REQUIRED: WASHINGTON REACTION TO REVISED DRAFT BEFORE MONDAY 0500 HOURS YOUR TIME WHEN I HAVE MEETING WITH MFA SEC GEN AND FONMIN TO BUTTON DOWN THIS MATTER. ALSO SUGGESTION AS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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WHEN DEPT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED. THE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY FONMIN REFLECT HIS USUAL PRE-ISSUE JITTERS WHICH WE HAVE NOW LEARNED TO TAKE IN STRIDE WHEN ANY OF HIS ACTIONS BECOME PUBLIC.

10. NEW SUBJECT: REAR ADMIRAL RICH AND I MEETING THIS AFTERNOON RE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR CNO.
IRVING

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